



155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Mr. Elpern explained that the Planning Department sends out the forms and instructions required for the Capital Budget requests in November with a due date specified in December. For each request, they must designate whether the request is urgent versus necessary and not submit any requests for less than \$25,000 and no cars. They also are supposed to try to expense these costs out over the five year period. Although it sounds simple, it never is. There are mathematical errors; people don't follow instructions, duplicate requests for the same item from various Departments. And many times things are included that shouldn't be or things are included that really should be bonded. He added that the last two pages are for next year's CIP and they detail bonds, notes, State/Federal grants, CDBG and LOCIP funds. The remainder of the expense comes out of the General/Sewer/Water fund. He said another difficulty in preparing this is that the Mayor has not yet completed his budget and he does not have either the Grand List or the State budget information. He added that when we started this process, he was not aware that the City was putting together a bond issue or he would have suggested some things be included in that instead of this CIP. He said the Airport request is an example of something that should have been a bond item. The request was for a Security Review but did not list any breakdown of what it included. The breakdown was actually listed in the News-Times as part of a story on Airport security. Another example of CIP versus bond issue is the Fire Department's request for facility renovations versus their request for replacement pumpers. It is difficult to determine which of these is more pressing. Also the request from Data Processing for the GIS system deserves attention this year. It has been skipped over in the past, but it is really something we need. We as a city are way behind in that technology. We currently have sporadic and not always up-to-date mapping information available. Mr. Elpern said he had seen a demonstration by the Town of Newtown and the types of data that this can provide it truly impressive. He said it would definitely benefit the City to have this technology available.

Mr. Elpern then discussed individual department requests. For Engineering, the first couple of items fall under the bond issue. The Library Place Parking Garage cost is running much higher than the original cost estimates. Mr. Blaszkowski asked if it would be bigger than the Patriot Garage. Mr. Elpern said no, but it definitely will be more expensive. Someone asked when the Patriot Garage was built. Mr. Elpern said it was built in 1991, but the reason for the higher cost is a general overall increase in the cost of construction. Mr. Elpern continued saying that the many of the sidewalk repairs will get some CDBG funding. He then went through the list of proposed traffic signals with some questions and answers from the Commission members. He said he had added the items from the Transportation Plan because without them it cannot be implemented. There was brief discussion of several intersections and the problems that exist with them. He then said we have limited control of items that State funded. He said we are working through HVCEO to hire consulting firm to look at the entire area from White St down to Federal Rd. Both Morris Gross from the Hospital and Dr. Schmotter from WCSU are involved in this process because both of these sites still have aggressive plans for expansion. He added that we are hoping to get some State funds because this is a regional hospital and WCSU is a State school. He spoke about the proposed sidewalks along Mill Plain Rd., saying there still are some areas where it is not feasible so there will be a gap in the continuity. He said we are still working on the long term plan to get sidewalks on the commercial arterials. Of course, there always are intersection and bridge repairs and/or improvements needed. Mr. Keller questioned how repairs for potholes are funded. Mr. Elpern explained that it varies from year to year and sometimes they have to borrow from other funds to get it done. He also discussed the Main St./Library Pl. intersection work, saying it is mandated by State because of the proposed garage. Mr. Urice asked if the previously approved money for this project has expired. Mr. Elpern said no but it is no longer enough money as the costs have increased.

Mr. Elpern then moved on to Finance saying the "Reval" should have been notes not bonds. He said Fire had some items he would have liked to see under the bond issue instead of this process. Mr. Keller asked what happens to the old fire trucks once they are replaced. Mr. Blaszkowski said depending on how old they are, sometimes they sell them to smaller towns or volunteer companies. Under Highways, they discussed the requests for equipment and various repairs. Mr. Elpern pointed out that dredging the Still River is required by the Army Corp of Engineers and was not done for many years. Under Parks & Recreation, they discussed the proposed improvements to the various playing fields. Someone questions what the Candlewood Lake improvements consisted of and Mr. Elpern said they need a small building to be used by the Candlewood Lake Authority. Mr. Urice questioned why the Blind Brook playground is asking for more money. Mr. Elpern said he did not know why but he was told they need this additional amount. Regarding the Police requests, the radio should have been a bond item and the number for the new Police station is exclusive of the site acquisition. Under Public Buildings, most of the requests are really necessary, especially for the schools. In some of these cases, the repairs that would be required by a system breakdown would be serious enough to close the school and that is something we cannot afford to do. Tarrywile Park has many requests because so much work is needed. All agreed that many parts of the park are in need of repair, but they felt the Pavilion request was too much. Mr. Elpern then said regarding the Sewer and Water requests, we usually just pass on their recommendations because they are enterprise funds.

Mr. Elpern asked if they had any more questions or any comments. Mr. Urice suggested they recommend that the GIS program not be cut as it is crucial to keep the City land

records up to date. Mr. Keller agreed with this and said, the new Magnet School is going to have a more sophisticated GIS setup that we currently do. Chairman Finaldi suggested they also recommend the necessary Highway improvements to continue the implementation of the Transportation Plan.

Mr. Keller made a motion to approve this draft of the Capital Improvement Program with strong recommendations that the following two items be funded: (1) the proposed GIS program submitted by Data Processing as it is an important tool for modern information management and (2) the traffic improvements submitted by Engineering to continue implementation of the Transportation Plan. Mr. Blaszkowski seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously with four AYES (from Mr. Keller, Chairman Finaldi, Mr. Blaszkowski and Mr. Urice)

At 8:45 PM, Mr. Blaszkowski made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Keller seconded the motion.